

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
JANUARY 1, 2011 through MARCH 31, 2011

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 1st quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/03/11 4:30am : 30

A three car accident involving a state police cruiser left three people injured, including the trooper. State Police Spokesman David Procopio told 22News Trooper Steven Larocco was checking out a car that was stopped on the Massachusetts Turnpike in Palmer. Then a car slammed into the cruiser. The three people injured were taken to Bay State Medical Center. Trooper Larocco was treated and sent home. The driver of the car that Trooper Larocco stopped to check, was charged with having an open container in the car. Police cited 40-year-old Robert Murangi of Washington State for failure to take care in stopping and having an open container of alcohol. Police believe fog may have caused this accident.

News 01/03/11 5pm : 30

Two men suspected in bank robberies in several Western Massachusetts communities were ordered held on \$500,000 bail. 26 year old Yannick Fanis of Hartford and 34 year old Jesus Ashanti of Connecticut both pleaded not guilty to unarmed robbery and other charges during their arraignments in Springfield District Court this morning. Springfield police spokesman Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News the men were arrested after their car was stopped on I-91 in Springfield Friday. They are charged with robbing a Citizen's Bank branch in Ludlow and attempting to rob a TD Bank branch in Springfield. According to Delaney they are also suspects in at least eight other area bank robberies.

News 01/03/11 6pm : 30

The West Springfield Police Department needs your help in indentifying two suspects. Detective Jay Gearing told 22News that the man and woman are believed to be using credit cards stolen from West Springfield. They are believed to have used the cards at "Target", "Best Buy", and "Apple" at the Holyoke Mall during the holidays and charged thousands of dollars. If you have any information please call the West Springfield Detective Bureau at 263 - 3210. You can also Text-A-Tip by texting SOLVE plus a message to 274637.

News 01/03/11 6pm : 30

Shortly after noon today, Massachusetts State Police were called to 71 North Main Street in the Franklin County town of New Salem reportedly for a man who barricaded himself inside a home. State Trooper Sean Lewis told 22News the man had made threatening statements and was possibly armed and intoxicated. A number of special State Police units were there, including tactical operations and the community action team.

News **01/05/11** **11pm** **: 30**

One person was shot during a home invasion in Springfield. Springfield police captain William Collins said four masked men broke into the home at 100 Benton Street around 9:30 tonight. One person was shot in the back and taken to the hospital. Captain Collins said the victim is in serious condition. No word yet on if anything was taken from the home. No arrests have been made.

News **01/05/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are looking for your help in identifying three men who allegedly broke into a home in the Forest Park neighborhood. Springfield police spokesperson John Delaney said the owner of a home in the Tiffany Street area set up a video camera after the owner was a victim of a previous break-in. Delaney said the suspects might be responsible for other break-ins in that took place in Forest Park and East Forest Park area. If you have any information about these suspects, please contact the Detective Bureau at 787-6355. Or you can also anonymously "Text-a-Tip" to: 274637.

News **01/07/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A former Holyoke teacher, who is awaiting sentencing for statutory rape of a student, is in trouble with the law again. Ludlow Police Sergeant Dan Valadas said Lisa Lavoie was arrested in Ludlow last night on a warrant from the probation department. She allegedly failed an alcohol screening that was a condition of her probation according to probation department spokeswoman Coria Holland. Today a Hampden County Superior Court judge revoked Lavoie's bail. She was held until her sentencing, which is scheduled for January 26th.

News **01/10/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A man from Springfield who filed a federal lawsuit alleging he was beaten by police during a traffic stop faces arraignment on shoplifting charges. Springfield Police officer Richard Rodrigues told 22News Melvin Jones, III is charged with taking 33 pairs of jeans and six shirts worth about \$750 from a J.C. Penney store yesterday. During a previous arrest Jones claimed his constitutional rights were violated when he was allegedly beaten by former Springfield police officer Jeffrey Asher in November 2009.

News **01/10/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A woman from Springfield is under arrest for allegedly stabbing her husband in the chest with a kitchen knife. According to a Springfield police news release, her husband William Smith, originally reported he was stabbed and robbed of \$800 on Hancock Street, but a police investigation determined that the stabbing was allegedly the result of a domestic dispute. Smith suffered a puncture wound to the lung and is in stable condition. His wife, Catrina Alli, faces charges of Assault and Battery with a knife.

News

01/11/11

5pm

: 30

Springfield Police believe that with their arrest of 32 year old Michael Boedeker of Kingsley Street early today, they may have brought an end to the series of burglaries on Kazbeck Street in the Indian Orchard section of the city. According to Springfield Police spokesman Sgt. John Delaney officers arrested Kingsley early this morning. He and another man were carrying a 32 inch flat TV. The same TV Delaney claims was stolen overnight from a home on Kazbeck Street. Neighbors told 22News there have many house breaks on Kazbeck Street. One man who's escaped the crime wave feels for the victims. There is a second man Sgt. Delaney told 22News they haven't arrested yet, but police know who he is. According to Delaney more arrests will be made. The Police Sgt. put it this way; detectives are working to tie in other burglaries in this neighborhood with the men they're looking for.

News

01/20/11

11pm

: 30

New Britain, Connecticut Police and Massachusetts State Police have discovered two 15-year old murder cases are connected, and now they're appealing to the public for help identifying the victims. Investigators held a joint news conference in New Britain today. They displayed air-brushed artist's renderings of two victims. They said DNA testing has linked a young woman, who was shot and killed and found in New Britain in 1995 to an older woman's body found 8 or 9 days later near Tolland State Forest in Massachusetts. She had also been shot in the head.

News

01/21/11

11pm

: 30

A Springfield teenager's being treated for a gunshot wound to his stomach. Springfield Police Captain William Collins told 22News that a 19 year old man was shot in the street outside 41 Hall Street a little after 8:00pm. Lt. Collins said the victim was conscious and talking when police found him in the city's Forest Park section. He said the victim was not cooperating with police. No suspects and no arrests so far.

News

01/23/11

11pm

: 30

There has been an armed robbery at the Orchard Variety store at Main and Oak Street in the Indian Orchard section of Springfield. Captain William Collins told 22News that the suspect was dressed like a cop, wearing a bullet proof vest and a helmet. He reportedly made everyone in the store get on the floor, threatening them with a shot gun. Then, he took the managers to the back room where he stole money from a safe. Captain Collins said he left in a Ford Bronco. Police are still looking for the suspect and are trying to determine how much money he took.

News

01/23/11

5pm

: 30

As firefighters were fighting the blaze on Benton Street, Fire Spokesman Dennis Leger said someone intentionally lit a fire in the hallway of this apartment building at 44 Woodside

Terrace. Leger said battling two fires at the same time "stretched resources thin." The Woodside Terrace fire is being investigated as arson.

News **01/25/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police want your help identifying two people suspected of stealing a gold and diamond bracelet worth \$4,000. The theft happened last Wednesday. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22news a woman distracted a store clerk, while her suspected accomplice reached over the counter and stole the bracelet. If you recognize these people, or have any information, you're asked to call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787-6355 or you can anonymously Text-A-Tip.

News **01/26/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Several men apparently got into an argument at the corner of Riverton Road and Denver Street in Springfield. The argument ended with 24 year old David Acevedo, III of 118 Pasco Road being shot in the back. A half hour later he was dead. Springfield detectives scoured the area around Riverton and Denver. Police Department Spokesman Sgt. John Delaney told 22News detectives are working on some very good leads. According to Delaney, Acevedo was shot in the back shortly after 12:00. He died within the hour at Baystate medical center. Delaney indicated the shooting might have had something to do with drugs. The murder is Springfield's first this year.

News **01/27/11** **6pm** **: 30**

An arrest in Springfield's first murder of the year, Sergeant John Delaney told 22News police arrested 18 year old Jerel Brunson last night at the Springfield restaurant where he was working. Brunson is being charged with yesterday's shooting death of David Acevedo of Springfield. Acevedo was shot on Riverton Road near Denver Street just after noon yesterday. Sergeant Delaney told 22News that the shooting happened after Brunson and two other men had an argument with Acevedo over money. More arrests are possible.

News **01/28/11** **12pm** **: 30**

There was another murder in Springfield; the second this year, and the second one this week. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that 23-year-old Darin Negrón was shot on Melrose Street in the city's Old Hill section around 11:00pm. He died at Baystate Medical Center shortly after 1:30 this morning. Detectives are still looking into the circumstances of the shooting but Sgt. Delaney said the victim was the intended target and this may have been the tragic result of an ongoing feud. There have been no arrests. This is the City's second murder in 2011.

News **01/31/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

Springfield police are searching for a man who stole a thousand dollars from Liberty Tax on Boston Road. Lieutenant John Bobianski told 22News that the suspect had a handgun and ran away with the cash around 5pm yesterday. The description of the suspect is vague.

News **02/01/11** **11pm** **: 30**

45 year old Bouchaib Rozki of West Springfield has been charged with rape. East Longmeadow Police Sergeant Denis Sheehan told 22News that Rozki was arrested at his Cold Spring Avenue home this weekend. Rozki was arraigned in Palmer District court on charges of Rape and Indecent Assault and Battery on a person over the age of 14. Sgt. Sheehan says Rozki contacted the woman online, and arranged a meeting, where the alleged rape took place.

News **02/02/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield police say they've closed two unrelated murder cases from last summer. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News police arrested 31 year old William Johnson last night for the July 2010 murder of Andre Niles. Niles was found stabbed to death in the parking lot of a Berkshire Avenue apartment complex. Also arrested yesterday was 18 year old Emilio Argueta. Argueta was arrested by Federal Marshals in Puerto Rico. Sgt. Delaney says Argueta was a second suspect in the murder of Angel Rivera. 18 year old Ray Rios is currently serving a 17 year sentence after pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter for Rivera's death.

News **02/02/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Westfield Police are asking for your help identifying a suspicious person. Westfield Detective Todd Edwards told 22News the person went into the Westfield Bank earlier this week and filled out a deposit slip for a large amount of cash. The bank employee asked him to remove the scarf at which point he said he forgot his ID and left. Police believe he may have been involved in a similar incident in early January.

News **02/07/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Shots were fired at the A.J. Wright on Boston Road in Springfield this evening. Lt. John Bobianski of the Springfield Police Department told 22News that a 5'7 heavy set man entered the A.J. Wright around 7PM wearing a green mask and grey hoodie. He reportedly fired three to four shots in the store before he made off with an undetermined amount of cash from the front register of the store. Luckily, no one was hurt.

News **02/08/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Two Springfield AIC students have been arrested after one of them allegedly used a gun to steal fruit snacks. According to a news release sent to 22News by Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney, Randy Quartey, and Tykeith Fantroy, both 18 allegedly demanded candy from a student who was inside his room at Hines Hall yesterday afternoon. When the

student demanded money for the candy one of them reportedly showed a gun and made off with a packet of Welch's fruit snacks.

News **02/10/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Holyoke detectives are searching for the man who robbed the Hampden Street Peoples Bank branch this afternoon. Holyoke Police Lt. Manny Febo told 22News tellers triggered silent alarms when he walked in and passed a note demanding a specific amount of cash. Lt Febo said the suspect, who was wearing a winter hat pulled low over his forehead, got away with some cash, possibly in a maroon Hyundai SUV.

News **02/10/11** **6am** **: 30**

One of Massachusetts "Most Wanted" is now being held on \$100,000 dollars bail. Phillip DePasquale was arrested the same day he was put on the State's ten most wanted list. DePasquale is accused of coercing a disabled woman to come with him, forcing her to withdraw money from an ATM and leaving her tied up in an abandoned RV during a snowstorm. Police say she was stuck for 24 hours in below-zero temperatures. She eventually got away. DePasquale was arrested Tuesday night following a police chase.

News **02/10/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Holyoke police have arrested a man suspected of robbing banks in two communities. The latest robbery happened early this afternoon at the Bank of America Branch on Main Street in Easthampton. Easthampton Police Chief Bruce McMahon told 22news the suspect indicated that he had a gun.

News **02/12/11** **7am** **: 30**

Breaking news in Springfield this morning where 24-year-old Pedro Osorir is dead. Springfield police are now asking for your help as they search for suspects. Springfield detectives are asking for your help in this year's third murder. Pedro Osorir's body was found in front of 40 James Street. Springfield Police Captain Peter Dillon told 22News they received an emergency call around 9:30 Saturday night. He was shot in the chest and died at Baystate Medical Center. This isn't the first time this neighborhood has seen a murder. Almost a year ago 17 years old Justin Gordon was gunned down outside of his girlfriend's home just a few houses away at 55 James Street. Gordon was killed February 6 of 2010; he was the first murder victim of the year. Detectives blamed gang violence to Gordon's murder. No arrests have been made with Osorir's death. If you have any information please call the Springfield Detective Unit at (413) 787-6355 or Text-a-tip.

News **02/14/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

A shooting suspect is still on the loose after firing at two police officers in Holyoke. Lieutenant Matthew Moriarty told 22news that two officers were near an apartment building on Adams Street around 1:00 this morning when the suspect shot at them from a fourth floor

window. The apartment building was then searched, but the shooter was not found. No one was injured.

News **02/19/11** **6pm** **: 30**

43 year old Jose Rios of Springfield allegedly broke into Garcia's Market in Indian Orchard early this morning by punching a hole into the back wall. Springfield Police Lt. Robert Moynihan told 22News that officers quickly arrested Rios climbing a snow bank outside of the Worcester Street store. Owner Millie Garcia told 22News Rios used to come into the store almost every day.

News **02/20/11** **7am** **: 30**

22News has just learned that a stabbing in Springfield's Liberty Heights section had deadly consequences. Police just left half an hour ago. 45-year-old Joel Echols of Springfield was stabbed at 26 Vinton Street in Springfield. Springfield Police Captain Peter Dillon it was a domestic dispute. It happened around midnight.

News **02/21/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Beverly Caldwell of Springfield faces arraignment tomorrow in connection with a domestic dispute that turned deadly. 45-year-old Joel Echols was stabbed to death in his home at 26 Vinton Street, early Sunday morning. Captain Peter Dillon told 22News that Caldwell lived with Echols. Caldwell allegedly stabbed Echols in the chest and he later died at the hospital.

News **02/22/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Three Sunderland brothers are spending the night in jail. Two of them face arraignment tomorrow on attempted murder charges, and aggravated assault and battery on a police officer. Sunderland Police Chief Jeffrey Gilbert has a sore back, but he's glad it's not worse. He told 22News a man with a butcher knife attacked him in the police station Monday afternoon, and that the man's brother attacked another officer on duty. A third brother had been arrested earlier on a traffic warrant. The Chief says he fought with 26 year old Kenneth Jean-Babets, and was able to get the knife away from him and put the cuffs on. He said 24 year old Patrick Jean-Babets attacked Officer Gary Sibilio, who subdued the suspect with pepper spray. Kenneth Jean-Babets has been charged with attempted murder, threat to commit murder, aggravated assault and battery on a police officer, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and felony breaking and entering. He's being held on \$50,000 dollars bail. His brother Patrick faces all the same charges except assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. He's being held on \$30,000 dollars bail. The chief was checked for a back injury, but he expects to be okay. Stephen Jean-Babets, who was originally arrested on the traffic warrant, is spending the night in jail because no one posted his \$270 bail. Chief Gilbert says both men will be arraigned tomorrow in Greenfield District Court, and that the District Attorney will request dangerousness hearings for both men.

News **02/22/11** **6am** **: 30**

Two armed robbery suspects have been arrested in Springfield after leading police on a chaotic chase overnight. Captain Cheryl Clapprood told 22news it started with a home invasion on Cliftwood Street just after midnight. The homeowner was shot in the leg. The three men are then accused of robbing another person on Florence Street a half an hour later. After exchanging gunfire with police, two suspects were arrested. 18 year old Shareef Ibrahim and Nicholas Rivera are facing numerous charges. Police are still looking for the third suspect.

News **02/23/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police have arrested a third suspect wanted for shooting at police officers early Tuesday morning. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that officers arrested 19 year-old Henry Clinton of Springfield around 4:00 yesterday afternoon. Springfield Police worked with state police and the United States fugitive task force to make the arrest. Clinton is the third man charged in the shooting Shareef Ibrahim and Nicholas Rivera has already been arrested. No officers were hurt in the incident.

News **02/27/11** **7am** **: 30**

Police in Springfield are trying to figure out exactly what happened on Carew Street early this morning. Lt. James Rosso with the Springfield Police Department told 22News that two men were shot at 741 Carew Street in the Liberty Heights section of Springfield around 3:45 this morning. Both shooting victims were taken to Baystate Medical Center. Rosso said one of two is in serious condition.

News **02/28/11** **11pm** **: 30**

46 year old Shawn Scully of Greenfield is in custody accused of robbing the Greenfield TD Bank February 2nd. Greenfield Detective Lieutenant Joseph Burge told 22News, police arrested Scully today. Lt. Burge says Scully allegedly passed a note to the teller that said he had a gun and got away with some cash. Lt. Burge said information from Greenfield residents helped them to make the arrest.

News **03/01/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Wilbraham Police are searching for a man who they say walked away from his arraignment this afternoon. 40-year old Blaze DeCarlo was scheduled to be arraigned in Palmer District Court on charges of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14. He left the courthouse, and the judge issued a warrant for his arrest. DeCarlo was last seen driving a Purple 1998 dodge stratus with Maine license plates, number 833SF. If you have any information about DeCarlo's whereabouts, call Wilbraham Police at 596-3837.

News **03/02/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A man who allegedly stole chips, drinks, and energy bars from a convenience store while armed with a knife is also accused of waving the weapon at Springfield police when they went to arrest him. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that Carlos Carballo of Springfield was arrested this morning at the Sunoco station on Armory Street. He faces shoplifting charges and three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon. Delaney said police confiscated bottled water, Rockstar Energy Drinks, Power Bars, and Doritos from Carballo.

News **03/03/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A drug bust has shut down an alleged crack house not far from the Springfield police station. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News eight people were arrested Wednesday in the drug raid at an apartment at 97 Spring Street. The Springfield police station is located just around the corner on Pearl Street. Delany said officers found crack cocaine packaged for sale, a digital scale and cash. According to Delaney, the apartment had been under surveillance for weeks after they received complaints from neighbors.

News **03/04/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Police in Holyoke have seized thousands of dollars of drugs and several weapons after a drug raid in the city. Holyoke police Chief Anthony Scott told 22news that 35-year old Ana Colon and 31-year old Rafael Guzman were arrested at their home on Samosett Street in the Flats section of the city yesterday afternoon. Police found over three thousand dollars worth of heroin and cocaine, three guns, ammunition, and three knives. Both are being held on \$50,000 dollars bail on various charges.

News **03/08/11** **11pm** **: 30**

We begin with breaking news of an armed home invasion in Springfield. Springfield Police Lt. John Bobianski told 22News that six masked men, one armed with a gun, another with a knife, broke into a Goldenrod Street home just before 9:15 tonight. Lt. Bobianski said they tied up the two men inside, and pistol-whipped one of them, and took a TV and approximately \$450. The man who was pistol-whipped did not require hospitalization. Springfield Police detectives are searching for the suspects.

News **03/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are searching for a bank robbery suspect. Springfield Police Lt. John Bobianski told 22News the TD Bank on State Street was robbed just before 5 this evening. Lt. Bobianski said the suspect passed a note to the teller implying he had a weapon and got away with an undetermined amount of cash. Springfield Police could not yet provide a description of the suspect.

News **03/09/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Westfield police used a taser to subdue a woman accused of stabbing her husband tonight. Westfield Police Lt. Paul Kousch told 22News it was a domestic dispute that turned violent. Lt. Kousch said one of the arresting officers tased 30 year old Denita Lewis when she advanced toward the wounded victim during her arrest. The suspect and the victim are from Holyoke, but the incident happened at a friend's home at 138 Rider Road. Police charged Lewis with domestic assault and battery and assault and battery with a knife. The victim was stabbed once in the chest, but Lt. Kousch said he's expected to be okay.

News **03/09/11** **5pm** **: 30**

18 year-old Roey Acevedo of Springfield was arrested this morning for allegedly shooting another teen with a BB gun. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News Acevedo was arrested at his Catalina Drive home on an outstanding warrant for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. The shooting allegedly happened on December 7th. Acevedo allegedly shot at a 16 year-old boy that was getting off a school bus on Parker Street. The boy was hit several times.

News **03/09/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Charles Plante of Springfield is accused of sexually assaulting a four year old girl last month. Police arrested Plante this morning at his 48 Coleman Street home. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News the alleged sexual assault on the four year old took place February 27th. Plante was charged with Indecent Assault and battery on a Child under 14 years of age. The "Special Victims Unit" is in charge of the investigation.

News **03/10/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police believe this is the man who robbed the TD Bank on State Street Tuesday night. Springfield Police arrested Sean Moynihan of Holyoke last night. Moynihan is accused of passing a note to the teller implying that he had a weapon and demanding money. Springfield, Easthampton and the State Police were all involved in arresting Moynihan.

News **03/11/11** **6am** **: 30**

Springfield police say they have a possible suspect in a stabbing in the city's South End. It happened around 9:30 last night on Mill Street. The man was stabbed in both of his legs. He was conscious when he was lifted into an ambulance and brought to the hospital.

News **03/13/11** **9am** **: 30**

Police are trying to find someone who allegedly shot a man in the Forest Park section of Springfield last night. A man is currently in critical condition this morning after being shot in the back. Springfield Police Lt. John Slepchuk told 22news the shooting happened around midnight last night right here at 729 Belmont Avenue. A man was seen running down the road here towards East Longmeadow but police do not have any suspects at this time. Just

about an hour ago a forensic truck and homicide detectives were here trying to find out just what happened.

News **03/14/11** **6am** **: 30**

Saint Mary's Sunday Mass was interrupted when a robber snatched the collection money and fled. The parishioners of Saint Mary's church here told police the suspect swiped their collection money, and then he ran out the door. Sergeant Raymond Manos told 22News they're not identifying the suspect because he has not been formally charged. But police say the parishioners saw the 32-year-old man from Westfield grab the envelope filled with about 300 dollars cash and then he fled. It happened during the Spanish-language Mass around noon. Police plan to issue a criminal complaint for larceny over \$250 dollars. Then he will be summoned to court.

News **03/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Police are also searching for suspects in another murder that happened Sunday. Just after 8 p.m., a 39 year old man from Springfield was stabbed to death at the corner of Union and Maple Street. Lt. John Bobianski told 22News the man was stabbed several times in the chest and stomach.

News **03/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A sweet 16 birthday party ended tragically early yesterday when a 16 year old boy was shot and killed. Kevin Gomez was a promising student athlete at Chicopee Comprehensive High School and today those who knew him struggled to come to grips with the tragedy. Students at Chicopee Comprehensive High School spent the day remembering their classmate 16 year old Kevin Gomez. His young life ended Sunday shot to death after a sweet 16 party on Belmont Avenue in Springfield. Gomez played on both the freshman football and basketball teams his coaches said he was well liked and made a big impression as a freshman. In a tragic coincidence, Gomez died a year to the day another promising student athlete Connor Reynolds was murdered. And those at Chicopee Comp hope to memorialize Gomez not as a murder statistic, but as a teammate and friend. So far there have been no arrests in his murder.

News **03/16/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Four suspects are now under arrest for the murder of Reality Shabazz Walker in Springfield, in November. Sgt. John Delaney told 22news that 17-year old Armando Olivares was arrested just this morning in Springfield. 19-year old Dennis Diaz was arrested yesterday. 18 year old Javier Nieves and 18 year old Lionel Lopez are also under arrest. Lopez was already being held for the murder of Jose Colon in December. All four have been charged with Walker's murder and are being held without bail. Walker was found face down in the grass on Nursery Street November 30th of 2010. He had been shot multiple times, once in the head, chest and both legs. Sgt. Delaney says both the victim and the suspects have ties to gangs.

News **03/17/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have made a second arrest in connection with the murder of 16 year old Kevin Gomez. Gomez was shot to death after a sweet sixteen birthday party on March 13th. Springfield police spokesman Sgt. John Delaney told 22News 19 year old Mark Melendez was arrested at police headquarters this afternoon after he was brought in for questioning. He is the second person charged in the shooting murder of Gomez.

News **03/17/11** **11pm** **: 30**

West Springfield Police are investigating the discovery of a body under the I-91 Bridge. West side police aren't releasing many details, but one of the officers there told 22News that they were investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man found under the bridge on the West Springfield side of the Connecticut river. The area in question is along the dike, behind the Home Depot and not far from the AAA's offices.

News **03/19/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A gunman opened fire targeting a Springfield man inside a tenement building hallway on Montpelier Street in the cities South End neighborhood late Friday night. 22News shows you what the doorway and hallway at 16 Montpelier Street looked like after the gunman fired off five shots at his intended victim, who turned out to be a lucky guy. Springfield Police Sgt. Paul Brown told 22News, out of the hail of bullets, one hit its mark just grazing the man who was ambushed in the hallway. The mysterious gunman escaped into the night.

News **03/21/11** **11pm** **: 30**

People in West Springfield had a rude awakening on Saturday morning when they woke up to find their cars tires had been slashed. Captain Thomas Wilkinson of the West Springfield Police Department told 22News that the tires of 25 cars were slashed early Saturday morning. The vandals hit a variety of streets throughout the city. Six cars were targeted on High Street.

News **03/23/11** **5am** **: 30**

Elizabeth Wilk has pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$115,000 dollars from the Friends of the Chicopee Library. According to the Hampden County DA's office, Wilk pleaded guilty to larceny of over \$250 and making a false entry into corporate books. She will be sentenced April 21st.

News **03/24/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested two people in connection with a bizarre case of alleged trespassing. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that officers arrested 22 year old Megan Disley, and 30 year old Joseph DeMarco early this morning at the Sheraton Hotel on Boland Way. According to Delaney they were illegally living in a small room above the elevator shaft

at the hotel. Delaney said that Sheraton security told officers that a man and woman had been hanging around the hotel for the last week. Disley and DeMarco are being charged with breaking and entering, trespassing and several other charges.

News **03/29/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A Longmeadow home was fire bombed early this morning. Someone threw as Molotov cocktail in a home on Metacomet Road. Longmeadow Police Captain John Stankewicz told 22News, the bottle filled with flammable liquid was thrown through the front window about a quarter of one this morning. The people living there were able to put out the fire in their living room themselves. The incident left neighbors a bit shaken.

News **03/29/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Amherst Police are trying to determine whether four men arrested this weekend on burglary charges are connected to other break-ins in town. Amherst Police Lieutenant Ronald Young told 22News officers arrested Justin Satterfield, Jack Ryan-Ackerman, Daniel Dickinson and Tobias Luz Saturday morning. Lt. Young said the four Amherst men were seen trying to break into homes at the Puffton Village apartments. All four were charged with Breaking and Entering in the night time, and all pleaded not guilty during their arraignments this morning in Eastern Hampshire District Court. They'll be back in court May 17th.

News **03/31/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police need your help identifying two people involved in two separate robberies. A man stole a Nintendo 3DS from the Boston Road "Game Stop" in Springfield Saturday night. He's African American, between 50 and 60 years old and had a mustache. Then Monday night, just before 10:00, a Hispanic man stole \$6,500 worth of jewelry at the "K-Mart" on Liberty Street. A jewelry counter sales associate showed him some gold items which he grabbed and took off. He drove away in a gold sedan with Connecticut plates. If you recognize these men, call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787-6355 or you can "text-a-tip."

News **03/31/11** **5pm** **: 30**

An illegal gaming investigation is underway after a cyber cafe raid in Chicopee. 22News was there as state police investigators shut down the Caféno Cafe for the day and began removing equipment. Harry Pierre, the Deputy Press Secretary for Attorney General Martha Coakley told 22News their office received several complaints about the cafe on Main Street in Chicopee. Today, they began an investigation at this location as well as a corporate office in West Springfield. Pierre said they are looking to whether gaming going on at the cafe is legal. The owner of several cyber cafes in the region who was not connected to this one told 22News investigations are common but the gaming is legal.

News **03/31/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

Police say they arrested a woman after they saw something suspicious in her baby stroller. Police saw Lynn Rivera pushing the stroller near Allen and Oakland Street. But Sergeant John Delaney says the baby in the carriage looked more like a power saw and a compressor. There was also an MP-3 player and other tools in the stroller. Rivera told police she found the items sitting in the carriage. Delaney told 22News it appears the tools were taken from a garage that was broken into on Allen Street.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 1st quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/10/11 11pm : 30

Woodshop used to be a common class at most public high schools, but it's being phased out of a lot of schools due to tight budgets. Academics have been pushed to the forefront and technology has forced schools to spend more money on computers. But, some educators say we are raising a generation that may not know how to use their hands.

News 01/11/11 11pm : 30

Newspaper circulation has decreased over the years, but one local college wants to change how students view the newspaper. Smith College will offer a four-day course that encourages reading the newspaper every day. Linda Kim, a visiting art professor, will teach this course. Kim has chosen the New York Times because she feels it's the "newspaper of record." The course begins next Tuesday, January 18th.

News 01/11/11 5pm : 30

Some students were given a chance to look into the future. MassMutual and Western New England College sponsored a conference entitled "Building Your Future." Participants are high school students who are in MassMutual's Academic Achievers program. Students must maintain a B average or better for four consecutive marking periods during grades 10 through 12. The students say this conference helps them make decisions about college and careers.

News 01/19/11 11pm : 30

Many students spend the first two years in a community college to save money. But others choose to jump right into a 4-year college. New research says students get very little educational benefit from their first two years of college, saying 45% of students showed no significant gains in learning. One Westfield State University student told 22News she definitely found value during freshman year. Students naturally become more focused as they near the end of their college career. Many are beginning to care more about what awaits them after they graduate when they graduate with programs that are career focused, career-oriented. Research shows nearly half of the students spend less time studying now compared with students a few decades ago.

News 01/21/11 5:30pm : 30

A new report shows 2 year colleges are doing a better job of keeping their students than their 4 year counterparts. According to the academic researcher ACT, the retention rate for two

year schools is at its highest rates in 27 years, while the retention rate at four year private colleges has dropped to its lowest level in that same time period. Four-year colleges are still doing a better job overall of keeping their students between the first and second year, and the gap is closing. Schools like Greenfield Community College, which offers many two year programs are getting better. Analysts who work at Act say the change in trends may be due to the economic downturn, when many are looking for faster ways to land a job. Many have gone back to school for more training, which many two year institutions provide. The report also says two year schools tend to be more responsive to the marketplace than four year schools. There's something else on these two-year schools side: they're very local and community oriented, which can also help keep students once they're there.

News **01/25/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Electronic books are helping students in Chicopee improve their reading skills. Fifth graders at Bowe Elementary School are using the Barnes and Noble Nook e-readers thanks to several generous donations from businesses in the city. The idea was conceived by fifth grade teacher, Harry Brandt, and is being met with a positive response by students.

News **02/08/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The job market is still tough and many college students are worrying about how they'll find a job after they graduate. UMass Amherst's Stockbridge School is helping their students find jobs. They held a career fair today for their students and for the public. It was a win-win for everyone because the companies at the fair got to find qualified employees and students got the opportunity to find out about real jobs in their preferred industries. The Stockbridge School prepares students for careers in Landscaping, Turf Management, and other green industries. Students told us they're not worried about finding a job after they graduate.

News **02/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Some high school students are hoping to move to the top of the class when looking for a job. Chicopee High School is holding its second annual pre-employment program for students. The program helps teens prepare for a job interview and to handle situations in the workplace. Participants learned how to create a resume, dress appropriately, as well as tips on problem solving and team work. Students say these workshops are beneficial.

News **02/11/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Students will still go to the Mapleshade School, but they won't be going inside. More than 100 parents went to Birchland Park Middle School in East Longmeadow tonight to find out how their kids will transition from Mapleshade Elementary to the Memorial School in Wilbraham. Superintendent Gordon Smith outlined the school department's plan. All students will still arrive at Mapleshade School in the morning and then will be bussed over to the Memorial School. While some parents were concerned about the kids coming home later, many were grateful arrangements are being made.

News **02/11/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

UMASS Students could soon be paying more for fees. UMASS President Jack Wilson says the university is facing a \$54.5 million dollar budget gap for next year and student fees may be raised to close it. Wilson says he anticipates a 2% to 3% increase in student fees to cover inflation. Students and their families are worried about the rising cost of college.

News **02/18/11** **6am** **: 30**

After the controversial closing of a charter school in Springfield, the city could get the chance to open another one. The same education chief that closed the Robert M. Hughes Academy Charter School in Springfield is proposing the openings of over a dozen new charter schools. Massachusetts' Education Commissioner, Mitchell Chester, has given his approval to 17 proposed charter schools planned for several communities across our state including Springfield. Chester announced yesterday he'll be recommending that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education grant the charters this month to groups seeking to open schools in Springfield and six other Eastern Mass. cities and towns. This recommendation includes 14 Commonwealth charter schools and three Horace Mann charter schools. Now the difference between these two types of charter schools is Commonwealth charter schools are completely controlled and operated independently of the local school district; while Horace Mann charter schools are developed and operated in close cooperation with the host school district and they also require the approval of the local school committee. The number of children attending charter schools in Massachusetts has more than doubled in the past decade. Last year enrollment climbed up to more than 27,000 students. This announcement comes almost a year after the Robert M. Hughes Academy Charter School in Springfield was closed after a cheating scandal. The school's charter was revoked after staff members admitted to helping students cheat on the state's MCAS exams.

News **03/21/11** **6am** **: 30**

Massachusetts education officials are looking to boost the high school graduation rate and ensure that more students have taken the courses they need to be ready for college. The goals will be discussed today at a special meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The board says it hopes to raise the five-year high school graduation rate to 88.3% for the class of 2014. The current statewide rate is 84%.

News **03/23/11** **6am** **: 30**

The Holyoke school system is getting a stern warning from the state's education commissioner to improve. According to state officials, the Holyoke school system is one of the lowest performing districts in the state, and if they don't turn things around by next year, the state will be stepping in. Sadly, this does not come as surprise to the state since the Holyoke School System already has a track record for not meeting standards. According to the Boston Globe, Holyoke was the first district to be declared as "underperforming" by the state seven years ago, and after that declaration was made, they were forced to submit a turnaround plan to the state. Also, at this time last year, 2 Holyoke schools were labeled as

underperforming. And, today, the problems still remain even though the district has hired a new superintendent and received a nearly \$3-million grant to remodel two schools. Some of the problems outlined at a meeting yesterday were the lack of accountability by the superintendent, poor teacher evaluation tools, and inconsistent use of student achievement data. Last year Holyoke's graduation rate was just above 52% compared to the 82% the state has overall. State Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester said that he personally sees the school district as one that (quote)"can and SHOULD be doing SO much better by the students they serve."

News **03/23/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Agawam schools need to cut nearly \$2,000,000 dollars. Tonight dozens of parents and teachers listened to the proposed plan for these cuts. This plan would add fees, eliminate freshman sports, and not replace retirements among other things. This has many parents worried that their children's education will become compromised.

News **03/28/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Massachusetts will receive just over \$8,000,000 dollars to turn around its persistently lowest achieving schools. The money is part of a federal school improvement grants program individual schools who qualify will have to apply for the money. Several local schools in Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, Agawam and Greenfield, among several others are on the list we have a link to the full list on our website.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 1st quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/03/11 4:30am : 30

On December 13th, Palmer Renewable Energy's attorneys told City Councilors that they received a special permit to build a biomass energy plant in 2008 -- and they were going to move ahead with the project. PRE's attorneys added that if the council chose to revoke the special permit the company would sue the city for \$100 million dollars in damages. But, the Senior Attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation, Susan Reid, sent a letter to Councilors telling them they have the right to revoke a special permit and they shouldn't be afraid to look into health concerns surrounding biomass. It's unclear what PRE or the council will do in the future.

News 01/03/11 5pm : 30

There's disagreement whether the earth is undergoing climate change. With 2010 officially over, the numbers are in and it was a record breaking year. According to long term climate data from Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, CT, 2010 was the warmest year ever for our region. The average temperature in 2010 was 52.9 degrees Fahrenheit, which is 2.5 degrees warmer than a normal year and beat the previous record warmest year of 1990 by 0.1 degree. Bradley wasn't the only site reporting a record breaking summer. Boston Logan International Airport also had the warmest year on record in 2010. Providence, RI experienced the second warmest year ever with Worcester Mass reporting the 4th warmest year on record. This warmth came as we transitioned from an El Nino weather pattern to a La Nina pattern. That transition started late spring and continued through late summer. The pattern lead to a ridge of high pressure which provided plenty of sunshine and one of the warmest summers on record. The temperatures weren't the only unusual feature of 2010. Below average snowfall contributed to less than average precipitation for the year. So far in these first 3 days of 2011, high temperatures have been averaging 9 degrees above average.

News 01/12/11 5pm : 30

Road crews were out early this morning trying to keep up with the storm. The snow started falling around midnight and quickly picked up in intensity. Road crews spent the night trying to stay on top of the snow as it piled up. Northampton brought out the heavy equipment to help clear the streets. While the storm was a huge inconvenience for some, it kept some people busy. One snow plow driver who didn't have much time to talk to us seemed pretty happy with all the snow.

News 01/13/11 5pm : 30

There's no question about it, we picked up a lot of snow from yesterday's snowstorm. It is what everybody's talking about and the storm we had yesterday was one of our top 10 snowstorms. Living here in New England we're pretty accustomed to snowstorms but we don't usually see storms that dump as much snow as we had on Wednesday. When you talk about big snowstorms most people think of the Blizzard of 1978. That was a crippling snowstorm, but we actually did not see as much snow. We picked up around 14 and 1/2 inches of snow here in the Springfield area from that storm. In the storm we had on Wednesday, officially in Chicopee we received 19 inches of snow. On the list of the top 10 snowstorms to hit Springfield since 1949, it ranks as #4, just behind the big snowstorms of February 2001 and just ahead of the Blizzard of 1996. At Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, CT they measured 24 inches of snow, which is their new record for greatest snowfall total.

News **01/16/11** **7am** **: 30**

Several people in Springfield have gone to the hospital because of a carbon monoxide leak. Seven people are in the hospital this morning due to carbon monoxide. An entire building had to be evacuated and condemned. Firefighters came to Orleans Street in Springfield when a carbon monoxide detector went off. Springfield Fire Department Spokesman Denis Leger told 22News they got the call at around 3 this morning. After checking the residents they found that there were high levels of carbon monoxide in the building. Leger says it appears that the furnaces were causing the high levels. Columbia Gas shut down four of the eight furnaces in the building. Everyone has been told to leave and has been given a temporary place to stay. Friends of residents came to assist families.

News **01/17/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

We still have up to 30 inches of snow on the ground in some places, but another storm is expected to hit our area tomorrow. Streets are still packed with snow and cars are still buried in the 16 acres section of Springfield. It's been a virtual obstacle course along many side streets, making even walking down the street difficult. Icicles hang from gutters and ten foot snow piles block the view for many residents. But another winter storm is on the way. The Springfield area will see another two to four inches Tuesday, according to the 22news storm team. Snow is expected to start sometime Tuesday morning and continue throughout the day before turning to rain.

News **01/20/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield received almost \$85,000 to help reduce toxic pollution in the environment. The money is from a Community Action for Renewed Environment grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. In 2009, there were about 3.2 million pounds of chemicals emitted into the environment in Massachusetts. About 60% of those were released into the air.

News **01/23/11** **7am** **: 30**

It's brutally cold out there; we are near 3 below zero here in Chicopee. With cold like this, there's literally a shortage of water in the air. When you go outside in these low temperatures, it sucks the moisture out of your skin. Also, we're expecting some dangerously cold wind chills. If it dips to 20 below zero you can get frostbite in a matter of 30 minutes. And if it goes even to 30 below zero be prepared for frostbite in a matter of ten. So cover everything today if you go outside. Do not stay outside for any extended amount of time. Frostbite forms when ice crystals form within the cells of your skin. This can obviously be very painful, so just bundle up when you're going outside and avoid being outside for too long of a time.

News **01/24/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The cold weather caused some serious problems for people in Berkshire County today. It was cold enough that every day life was interrupted. Schools in Lee were canceled. Some residents say they saw fewer cars on the road or fewer people at local businesses. Digital thermometer readouts at banks showed temperatures barely broke double digits, and that's without factoring in wind chill. They say the cold can cause issues with cars, roads, and of course their homes.

News **01/25/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Sen. John Kerry says green energy will be a topic in President Obama's state of the union address tomorrow night. Speaking at an event in Pittsfield this afternoon, Senator Kerry told 22News that Massachusetts has positioned itself as a major player in the green energy movement.

News **01/28/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Preliminary work on a Green High Performance Computing Center in Holyoke will begin this spring. Tonight, members of the group "citizens for the revitalization and urban success of Holyoke", or "C.R.U.S.H.," met to discuss the project's progress and give their input on the design of the center. Crush Member Rory Casey told 22News the center will focus positive attention to downtown Holyoke.

News **01/31/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

And winter isn't finished with us yet. The National Weather Service says about half of the country will be getting snow or ice this week from a massive storm. It's going to hit the Midwest first but the storm is then expected to track its way toward New England by midweek. More than a foot of accumulation could come in cities like Chicago and Detroit before its New England's turn.

News **01/31/11** **5pm** **: 30**

This winter is becoming a record breaker when it comes to snow fall amounts. Today marks the end of a month that many will hope to forget. The end of January brings an end to a

month that brought 7 days out of the month that brought an inch or more of new snowfall for the day. Over 40 inches of snow fell this past January which is the highest amount of snowfall ever recorded at the Westover Air reserve base for the month of January. The heaviest snowfall for many came during the storm of January 11th and 12 which dropped 19 inches of snow at Westover with some areas reporting over 2 feet of snow.

News **02/02/11** **6pm** **: 30**

When Mother Nature dumps snow on us like she did this week, it's not an unusual site when shops and schools close down for the day. While many places will close up shop when this kind of winter weather comes around, there are some communities in Berkshire County whose doors are always open. Step inside the local coffee shop on a wintry day and you'll find the muffins are made, coffee and a hot meal is available. Winter is the time communities like Stockbridge that are near ski slopes, shine. Berkshire County was blasted once again Tuesday and Wednesday with snow and sleet. The Inn and other shops in Stockbridge have welcomed more visitors than usual this winter because of the snow in addition to their loyal locals. It may not come as good news to everyone but at least for some Berkshire County is get a few more inches of snow which means fresh snow for the slopes.

News **02/03/11** **5pm** **: 30**

We've endured just one storm after another this winter and the snow just keeps on piling up. Snow, snow and more snow it just keeps coming and it just keeps on piling up this winter. We saw record snowfall in January and with the storms we had this week we're now above our average snowfall for the year and there are still almost two more months of winter left. A day after our latest storm many side roads are still snow covered and people continue to take to their roofs to remove the snow in hopes of preventing water from leaking into their home and to keep their roof from collapsing. Some who've lived in this area for quite awhile can't remember a winter this bad in a very long time. And this weekend marks the 33rd anniversary of the Blizzard of 1978.

News **02/20/11** **7am** **: 30**

Heavy wind gusts caused thousands to lose power here in Western Mass. Dozens of people had to be evacuated from this Chestnut street apartment building in Holyoke. Holyoke Fire Lt. Tom Paquin told 22News a stiff breeze lifted the roof off the building about two feet and it came down off top of the bricks and all the bricks started falling into the street. And Basketball practice had to be discontinued at East Longmeadow's Meadowbrook elementary school after kids in there noticed that the panels on the wall of the gymnasium moving in and out.

News **02/23/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The days of the Mt. Tom coal-burning power plant in Holyoke may be numbered. Holyoke residents and leaders are starting the process of determining what to do if the Mt. Tom power station is forced to close. Coal-burning power stations are closing at a fast pace around the

country. A group called GreenWork is leading the discussion. They hope to find more environmentally-friendly ways to keep the plant open such as converting to natural gas.

News **02/24/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

Closing the Mt. Tom coal-burning power plant would cost jobs and millions of dollars in revenue for Holyoke. So city residents and leaders are looking at options, just in case the power station is forced to close. Coal-burning power stations are closing at a fast pace around the country. So now a group hopes to find more environmentally-friendly ways to keep the plant open such as converting to natural gas.

News **02/25/11** **11pm** **: 30**

The town of Amherst is applying for green community designation. An informational meeting was held tonight for residents. To qualify, the town must meet certain criteria including a 5 year energy efficiency plan and adopting the stretch code, which requires all new construction to be 20% more efficient than the current building code. Amherst feels this is the perfect time to work toward the "green" designation.

News **03/03/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Some area employers took part in green jobs training and planning at Springfield City Hall. Companies attending are involved in environment related industries such as waste management, construction and utilities. The idea is to create training programs to meet the needs of the new green technologies. Among the skills required; electronics and plumbing for installation and maintenance of heating systems for solar, wind and geothermal technology.

News **03/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

High waters were a big concern along the mill river in Northampton. The Mill River in Northampton crested at 12.26 feet at 7 am this morning. The latest report shows it over 2 feet lower. Still, earlier on today the Mill River rose to it's 4th highest level in recorded history. Nearly 3 inches of rain and plenty of snowmelt helped the river rise up quickly. The river came close to touching the underpass of bridges in the area, and quiet waterfalls turned into strong currents of water. The majority of flooding 22News observed was field flooding while some people told 22News that streets and back yards were flooded earlier on this morning.

News **03/08/11** **11pm** **: 30**

An overflowing Quaboag River has closed a stretch of Route 20 in Palmer. It looks like a lake at "Shearer's Corner" in Palmer. Route 20, Wilbraham Street near the Railroad Bridge is closed to traffic because the water there is almost two feet deep. Some bigger trucks with high clearance took their chances, but a car couldn't make this crossing.

News **03/08/11** **6am** **: 30**

And in Connecticut heavy flooding washed away cars and flooded homes. The Housatonic River overflowed near the Seymour-Oxford line. Police say parts of two homes and two cars were swept away and seen floating down the river. Authorities say the homes and cars appeared to be unoccupied. Oxford's fire chief says this is the worst flooding there in 15 years.

News **03/10/11** **6pm** **: 30**

More heavy rain is on the way, raising concerns we could see more flooding across Western Massachusetts. Well the rain is coming down and even though the river levels have gone down, with all the rain on the way those rivers will be rising once again. Melting snow combined with the rain we had earlier this week caused some big problems for some people in Westfield. Some homes were flooded and some streets had to be closed. And although the Westfield River is now down within its banks it is expected to reach flood stage Friday night.

News **03/14/11** **11pm** **: 30**

A Coalition of public health, social justice and environmental groups has launched a campaign to oppose biomass incineration plants in Massachusetts. The coalition chose Greenfield to announce their petition drive. The group includes biomass opponents from Greenfield, Springfield and Russell, three Western Massachusetts communities where biomass plants are proposed. They want to extend the moratorium on biomass plants for three more years.

News **03/16/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is looking into the possibility of Uranium on the Springfield Technical Community College's campus. The building that could possibly contain traces of depleted Uranium is this building, building 28. The basement of the building used to be a firing range; it's the old Springfield Armory. Here's how we got to this point, Julia Hurley, spokeswoman with the Department of Public Health told 22News back in the 60's the United States Army shipped about 1400 "spotting rounds" of bullets to the shooting range those bullets used depleted Uranium. 200 of the 1400 were then sent out of state, but it appears the rest of them not sent out of state are unaccounted for during a routine paperwork review, the Army realized there was no closeout documentation for the armory. So now there's concern those bullets that contain uranium are still on site. STCC President Ira Rubenzahl told 22News, in the late 90's the armory was cleared of lead and he believes the Uranium would've been cleared as well, but he wants it checked out as it can be a health concern.

News **03/16/11** **5pm** **: 30**

After flooding worries last week, some people might think flooding is done for a while. While there might not be much snow left to melt in your yard, I went out to Huntington today where

that isn't the case. Even though Western Massachusetts didn't have major flooding concerns today, some are weary to think that we're done with flooding for the season. Here at the Westfield River in Huntington, river levels are not expected to exceed flood stage today, however, with plenty of snow and water still left at the higher elevations, we're not out of the woods just yet. Up in the hills of Huntington, Tom Wisnauckas measures snow depth and water content of the snow. According to his measurements taken at higher elevations, there is still between 5 and 8 inches of water locked up in the snow, ready to be released into the ground and rivers. With warmer temperatures and future rain likely to trigger that water release, we still have a little time to go before flooding concerns go away there isn't enough snow to measure.

News

03/21/11

6pm

: 30

Cleanup is underway in Agawam at the site of a pair of sewage pipe breaks which happened last week. Sewage is no longer flowing and work has begun to help cleanup and fix 2 broken sewage pipes off of Meadow Street in Agawam. The problem started sometime before 9am on Friday when Agawam DPW Superintendent Chris Golba was told about an unattended backhoe excavator vehicle in the meadows section of Agawam. After a DPW investigation, it was found that an unauthorized person or people had excavated an above 2 waste water lines, damaging both lines and sending sewage into nearby areas. 22News cameras were initially denied access to the sewage break site with one car put in the middle of the road to block our path. After a call to Mayor Cohen of Agawam, we were allowed to take our camera to the site to show you the latest condition of the sewage break. They will begin by pumping out enough water to remove the stranded backhoe vehicle. Only then can work begin to fix both broken waste water pipes. After repairs are complete, the Environmental Protection Agency will evaluate the site and determine what cleanup is necessary. Both the DEP and the Agawam Police department are investigating who caused the sewage pipe breaks. Sewage is currently being transported using sewage trucks until repairs are made.

News

03/21/11

5pm

: 30

The first full day of spring brought a winter like wonderland across western Massachusetts. Today's wet snow produced from a coating of snow to up to 3 inches of snow in some parts of Western Massachusetts. Before today, nearly 73 inches of snow has fallen since November which is almost 2 feet more snow than average. Some remain optimistic that spring will arrive soon enough.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Government during the 1st quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/03/11 5am : 30

The New Year has ushered in some tax breaks for Massachusetts businesses. The tax rate for businesses is now at 8.25% from 8.75%. These new regulations also include a lower capital gains tax rate for stock sales in some Massachusetts startup companies. And businesses aren't the only ones enjoying lower taxes. The state's 6.25% sales tax on alcohol sold in stores, has been lifted. This tax was eliminated after voters approved a ballot question in November.

News 01/03/11 5am : 30

Governor Deval Patrick is embarking on his second term this week with an indoor swearing-in ceremony. Governor Patrick, who was re-elected in November, will be sworn in this Thursday, followed by an open house and a \$50-per-person party at the Boston Public Library. The events will be followed two days later by a youth town hall community service event and celebration hosted by the governor and first lady Diane Patrick. Four years ago, Patrick raised \$2 million to commemorate the beginning of his service as the state's first black chief executive.

News 01/05/11 4:30am : 30

Today, Mark Mastrianni will become Hamden County's new D.A. And David Sullivan will be the new Northwestern District Attorney. Mark Mastrianni will be sworn in at the Hamden County Hall of Justice in Springfield this morning. And the Lieutenant Governor will swear in David Sullivan at the Northampton District Courthouse. Sullivan, who's a democrat, was the Hampshire County Register Probate. And in Boston, Governor Patrick will swear in the newest members of the state house and senate. Patrick's inauguration will take place tomorrow.

News 01/06/11 5pm : 30

Hundreds of people, including several familiar Western Massachusetts faces filled the state House chambers to witness the start of the Governor's second term. The Governor's Inaugural Address included remarks about the ups and unexpected downs of the first term that included the fall of the economy nationwide. He said it hasn't been easy, but he's optimistic of what will come of this second term.

News 01/07/11 5pm : 30

Many people listened to the Governor's inaugural address yesterday with optimism of what lies ahead for our state. He talked about everything from education, healthcare and preventing youth violence but didn't say much, or anything, about local aid. Mayor Bissonnette in Chicopee said he didn't need the Governor to talk about it, and he's anticipating cuts on the state and federal levels.

News **01/10/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Congressman Richie Neal reacted this morning to the shooting of his colleague and friend, Congresswoman, Gabrielle Giffords in Arizona this weekend. During a news conference at the federal courthouse, the Congressman said he is clearly disturbed by the incident and his heart goes out to the families of the victims. He also said the shooting is an opportunity for members of Congress to tone down the rhetoric about hot button issues.

News **01/17/11** **6pm** **: 30**

In the wake of the suicides of Phoebe Prince in South Hadley and Carl Walker Hoover in Springfield the state now has an anti-bullying law, Governor Deval Patrick says is being taken very seriously.

News **01/24/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick plans to unveil his version of the state's fiscal 2012 spending plan Wednesday. The House will unveil its version later on, followed by the Senate. The measures will be merged in a House-Senate conference committee with the governor holding sway through veto threats.

News **01/25/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Sen. John Kerry says green energy will be a topic in President Obama's state of the union address tomorrow night. Speaking at an event in Pittsfield this afternoon, Senator Kerry told 22News that Massachusetts has positioned itself as a major player in the green energy movement.

News **01/26/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Appeals Court Associate Justice Fernande "Nan" Duffly endured a close vote today to take her place as the newest member of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Duffly will be the first Asian-American to serve on the States highest court. Newly elected Councilor Jennie Caissie, a Republican from Oxford, broke the suspense by declaring she would support the 61-year-old nominee. The nine-member panel ended up voting 4-3. There also was no immediate date set for her swearing-in.

News **01/26/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick unveiled his fiscal year 2012 budget proposal today that includes eliminating 900 state positions. Governor Patrick is also calling for a 65 million dollar reduction in local aid. There are no tax hikes in the proposal, but is once again asking for an expanded version of the states bottle bill, as well as a new fee on auto insurance policies. Patrick admits not everyone will be happy with his decisions.

News **01/27/11** **6pm** **: 30**

If Governor Deval Patrick gets his way in fiscal year 2012, it's bad news for cities and towns across Massachusetts. 22News was in Boston yesterday when the Governor unveiled his budget proposal. He proposed slashing local aid by \$65 million dollars. Now, local leaders are trying to figure out how to make ends meets.

News **02/04/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Gov. Patrick's pursuing possible federal relief for Massachusetts after a nasty one-two punch of snow and freezing rain socked the state, collapsing roofs and damaging homes and businesses. Patrick said he's told the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to work with the federal Small Business Administration to determine the state's eligibility for a disaster declaration or economic injury declaration. Patrick tells homeowners, tenants or businesses if they have concerns about the structural integrity of their buildings, they should leave immediately and call 911.

News **02/07/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno today placed crime fighting and developing new jobs at the top of his 2011 blueprint for the city. Sarno outlined his priorities during his "State of the City address" this morning. Sarno stated emphatically that the acts of violence and murders affecting so many of the cities youth has got to stop. The Mayor told 22News where the city hopes to develop new jobs.

News **02/07/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The government has granted Northampton more than \$600,000 dollars to deal with drug use among the city's youth. The Northampton Prevention Coalition told the city council tonight that city has won a federal grant of \$125,000 per year for five years. The Coalition has already begun research on the risk factors contributing to alcohol and drug use among high school age children.

News **02/15/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Attorney General Martha Coakley will be holding a final hearing in Springfield this week to make recommendations on the states new anti-bullying and cyber bullying laws. This is Coakley's second hearing on the nine month old law. Coakley and the Commission on Bullying prevention hope to determine how well the law is working and to see whether more steps need to be taken to stop bullying in schools. The law was prompted by several

incidents, including the suicide of 15-year-old Phoebe Prince of South Hadley. The final anti-bullying law hearing will take place this Thursday at 10 am at Western New England College.

News **02/18/11** **6pm** **: 30**

22news talked to Beacon Hill's top man today to learn that lawmakers are getting ready to roll the dice once again. House Speaker Robert DeLeo was in Holyoke today for a legislative luncheon at the Log Cabin. 22NEWS asked the speaker about the casino bill that nearly passed at the end of the last legislative session. The Governor wouldn't sign it as it was written. DeLeo says he's planning to talk casinos once again and thinks negotiations will go better this year.

News **02/25/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Governor Patrick is among several Democratic governors meeting with President Obama today. The governors will focus on jobs and the economy and how states can emerge from the recent recession. After the meeting, the governors, including Patrick, will talk to reporters. Governor Patrick has been gradually raising his national profile after his successful reelection last year in an otherwise tough political year for Democrats nationally.

News **03/01/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Chicopee State Representative Joseph Wagner has been named chairman of the legislature's joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies. The 16-member panel will review legislation promoting business expansion and job growth, including plans to bring casino gambling to Massachusetts. Several bills related to an expansion of gambling have already been referred to the committee, as have bills promoting clean technology and renewable energy. Wagner previously chaired the transportation committee for the past eight years.

News **03/01/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick has testified before a congressional committee on the state's 2006 health law. Patrick was attending the winter meeting of the National Governors Association in Washington. Patrick told members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Tuesday that while health insurance is universally accessible in Massachusetts, it is not yet universally affordable.

News **03/02/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Patrick Administration continues to stand their ground on the issue of casinos in Massachusetts. While visiting Ware Middle School for Read across America Day, Lt. Governor Tim Murray spoke with 22News about the letter sent to the Governor from several mayors including three from Western Mass. The Lt. Governor said Governor Patrick has made concessions on the issue and hopes to come to an agreement with lawmakers.

News **03/02/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The sagging economy has State government scaling back on services. For the disabled community, that could mean further cuts to programs they say are already underfunded. Hundreds of advocates from the disabled community gathered today, handing out awards and asking legislators to support their cause. Among the honored guests, South Hadley Representative John Scibak, who accepted the "Legislator of the Year Award" from the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council; but overshadowing the show of support, a grim economic reality. Members of the disabled community hope legislators are on their side. Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo says cuts are possible, but that the general feeling in the House is that they want to limit harm to the disabled community as much as possible.

News **03/03/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Many Americans think President Obama's a nice guy, but could do a better job. A Quinnipiac University poll found fifty-seven percent disapprove of the job Democrats are doing in Congress, and fifty-four percent disapprove of Republican efforts. But more than seventy percent oppose cuts in entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare. The same poll showed seventy-four like the President, but only forty-six percent think he's doing a good job.

News **03/08/11** **6am** **: 30**

This winter has not only set records but it's left a huge mark in our state's budgets. As a way of trying to relieve this financial strain, Gov. Patrick asked the government for aid. And Massachusetts has finally gotten an answer back from the President. While many of us were seeing a lot of white this winter state lawmakers were seeing a lot of red. As the snow continued to fall the debt, continued to pile-up. But thanks to our President, our state will soon be seeing green. President Obama has issued a major disaster declaration for Massachusetts to help the state rebuild especially after the slew of severe winter storms we received. The weather we experienced on Jan. 11th and 12th seemed to be the straw that broke the camel's back. It's hard to forget the havoc these storms caused: roads were shutdown, school and businesses had to close, roofs were collapsing left and right and thousands were left without power. It was in the wake of these two particular storms that Gov. Patrick asked for the declaration, which will now be helping us. So, even though time and money was lost during these severe winter blasts, this news is restoring some hope in our state as we head into the beginning of spring.

News **03/15/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield has sent out their annual census forms and is hoping for quick returns. All cities and towns are required under Massachusetts law to conduct an annual census. It's a shorter form than the federal census with names, date of birth, veteran status and dog registration. The information is used to update street listings and voter registration as well as provide funding opportunities.

News

03/28/11

6pm

: 30

Ludlow is holding their town's annual election today. Several positions are slated to be filled including the school committee, public works and planning board. There is also one ballot question to decide whether or not to continue assessing excise on agricultural businesses. There is some concern turn out will be low. Those who voted say the town elections are important.

News

03/29/11

5pm

: 30

Governor Deval Patrick plans to address nuclear safety concerns in the Bay State. He said he has scheduled a private meeting this week with officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Governor Patrick said he plans to ask some direct questions about safety at nuclear power plants in and around Massachusetts.

News

03/31/11

4:30am

: 30

For the past 8 years, Springfield's financial department has overlooked an excise tax, which has cost the city more than a quarter of a million dollars. Since 2003 car dealerships in Springfield were not charged an excise tax on their dealer plates. Every car dealership has dealer plates that they put on cars to take them out for test drives and the city taxes them 100 dollars per plate, per year. But some dealerships in Springfield have over 30, one has 41. For them that's \$4,100 a year more than \$32,000 that they have to pay back. City Councilor John Lysak caught the error when they were doing research on a law suit. They realized then that that company was not being charged for this excise tax for years. This is just another error; Springfield city schools overpaid teachers more than 1.2 million dollars. Now people say its concerning that there have been so many errors. City Councilor Lysak has requested the Mayor's office to explain who is responsible for sending these notices by tomorrow afternoon. Calls to the mayor's office were not immediately returned.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health-Smoking during the 1st quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/01/11 6pm : 30

There's something new this year in Medicare regulations. You'll now have to show your ID to pick up a wider range of prescription drugs in 2011. New Massachusetts rules went into effect today that require you show the pharmacist your ID for such drugs as Valium, Vicodin and Lorazepam. Each of these drugs has been involved with overdose deaths. Oxycontin is another drug where your ID is required before the pharmacist will fill the prescription. The tougher regulations are reportedly designed for patient privacy.

News 01/06/11 5:30pm : 30

Many people are expected to get the flu this winter. The reason for an increase during the winter is that people are in enclosed places, like the malls, sporting events, and movies. So, it's easier to transmit viruses if the area isn't cleaned properly. But, there's an easy way to prevent this. Hydration is probably the most important thing. Cleanliness and hygiene are also important, so you don't transmit it to someone else. Dr Manish Vig hasn't seen a lot of flu cases, but he still recommends that you get a flu shot. The difference between a cold and the flu is a cold is limited. It only affects the upper portion of the body. Symptoms like a runny nose and cough. The flu lasts longer and you usually get a fever and experience muscle stiffness.

News 01/14/11 11pm : 30

Less sodium, more whole grains, and low-fat milk. Those are some of the ingredients of the first major nutritional overhaul of the meals at school cafeterias in 15 years. The proposal today from the Agriculture Department applies to lunches subsidized by the federal government. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says more than 32 million children could be affected. He says kids can consume as many as half of their daily calories in school.

News 01/14/11 5pm : 30

Patients of All Care Dental can now have access to their dental records. Holyoke Health Center Incorporated has signed an agreement to accept the transfer of all dental records from All Care to the Chicopee Health Center office. All Care's Chicopee office, as well as fifty-five others nationwide, abruptly closed in December. Dental health professionals will review the records and attempt to contact those patients whose dental care was not completed. There is some hope for those who face financial difficulty.

News 01/21/11 11pm : 30

It's been said that it's harder to quit smoking than it is to quit heroin. Many people have already broken their New Year's resolution to quit lighting up. It turns out that a smoking cessation program just may be the way to go. Dr. Robert Schnoll, who specializes in the treatment of nicotine dependence, says there are two types of treatment: behavioral therapy and medications approved by federal health officials. The doctors say you can dramatically increase your chance of success with one simple step; join a smoking cessation program.

News **01/25/11** **5pm** **: 30**

New York could be the first state in the nation to ban electronic cigarettes. Northampton has adopted regulations that limit who can sell electronic cigarettes, because they're concerned they could be tempting and easy to get for teens. They come in a variety of flavors like cherry or coffee. But, advocates say these e-cigarettes can help people quit smoking.

News **02/07/11** **6am** **: 30**

A student on Cape Cod Community College has been diagnosed with the H1N1 flu virus. The campus of Cape Cod Community College was told on Friday that a student was diagnosed with the illness. Administrators say the student is being treated off-campus and has not been back in class. The school sent email notifications to the entire college community, and will set up a free H1N1 clinic for students, staff and faculty.

News **02/11/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first mammography device that generates 3D images of the breast, potentially helping doctors' spot cancerous tumors. The FDA says the new system offers both 2D and 3D x-rays. It also increases the accuracy of diagnosis, meaning fewer women will have to undergo additional scans. But, it also doubles the radiation dose received by patients. Approximately one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, according to the National Cancer Institute.

News **02/16/11** **11pm** **: 30**

February is heart health month. And the best ways to keep your ticker ticking is to watch what you eat and keep your weight down. But, you also need to keep an eye on your cholesterol, which is a major contributor to heart disease. Everybody needs cholesterol; that wax-like substance found in the blood. It keeps cells healthy. But knowing the difference between bad and good cholesterol is an important way to keep your heart healthy. So know your numbers; for women the HDL or good cholesterol level should be at 50 or higher and for men 40 and above. The ideal LDL or bad cholesterol is 100 or lower for both men and women. Too much bad cholesterol can clog the veins, which can lead to a heart attack, so stay away from high fatty foods they are loaded with bad cholesterol. And studies show that even 30 minutes of moderate walking each day can help keep your good cholesterol up and your bad cholesterol down.

News

02/16/11

5:30pm

: 30

A new report claims health benefits for city employees are crippling budgets across the Baystate. Fifty Massachusetts cities and towns face staggering costs associated with health care benefits for retired city employees \$20,000,000,000 dollars to be exact. That's according to a new report by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. The report shows these costs could place a huge burden on taxpayers. In Holyoke, the average homeowner could pay more than \$50,000 dollars over 30 years just to help keep the system afloat. Cities like Chicopee are in better shape than most across the Commonwealth, but Mayor Bissonnette says changes are still underway. And, in spite of calls to get city employees on retirement plans similar to the private sector, some say pensions should be left alone. But for cities struggling to stay out of the red, honest work might not be enough to offer expensive retirement benefits.

News

02/17/11

5pm

: 30

Governor Deval Patrick unveiled legislation today that he says is designed to control health care costs and improve care. The plan will reportedly move Massachusetts toward a "Global payment" system in which doctors will be rewarded by how healthy they keep their patients, rather than by how many procedures or office visits they schedule. Massachusetts is touted for its landmark 2006 healthcare law that dramatically expanded coverage, but it did little to control costs. The prospect of changing the law to help the consumer came as good news to some.

News

02/17/11

6pm

: 30

Amherst state representative Ellen Story is the lead sponsor of a bill to legalize Marijuana in Massachusetts. It calls for a tax on pot to generate revenue for our cash-strapped state. As anticipated, not everyone agrees fixing the economy trumps the health and safety risks involved. It's an idea that's been considered in the past, but now Amherst State Representative Ellen Story is leading the way to legalizing marijuana in Massachusetts to bring in revenue to our cash-strapped state. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott says it'd only cause more problems on the streets in Western Massachusetts and he doesn't support it. The law would apparently be regulated and taxed like alcohol. And Massachusetts isn't alone here. There are also state legislatures from Maine to Washington State considering this idea. Some people even think the measure is a step toward cleaning up the streets. The bill does not suggest loosening laws regarding driving under the influence or growing and dealing for profit.

News

03/08/11

11pm

: 30

The city of Springfield has banned the sale and use of synthetic marijuana. The city council voted tonight to ban the substance also known as "k-2" or "spice". K-2 is packaged and sold at convenience stores as a sort of incense, but can produce a marijuana or cocaine-like high

when ingested. Springfield City Councilor John Lysak told 22News he proposed the ban to protect the city's youth.

News **03/15/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Fewer people are smoking today than they were 40 years ago. In the 1960's, almost half of people who smoked cigarettes in this country smoked a pack a day or more. But, in 1965 that number began to decline since the government issued the first report linking cancer and smoking. And that number continues to decline.

News **03/18/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

New Hampshire and two other states may be lowering their cigarette taxes. The New Hampshire house passed a 10 cent reduction to cigarette taxes; New Jersey has proposed a 30 cent tax break and Rhode Island a dollar. Hoping people will buy over the border. Cigarette prices have historically been lower in New Hampshire. It's just been another reason for people to head to the neighboring state to save a buck. It's unusual for any state to cut a tax during tough times. But New Hampshire's house has voted to lower their cigarette tax by 10 cents to a dollar and 68 cents a pack. It's a dollar savings for a carton. Convenience stores are undecided on how it will affect their sales; they say it really depends on what gas prices do. Apply Trails Convenience store owner Pamela Miner says she never wants to see neighboring taxes go down, but is hopeful business won't disappear. Smokers say they'll take whatever break they can. The New Hampshire Senate will see the tax bill next, though they are expected to pass it.

News **03/22/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Health service advocates for seniors and people with developmental disabilities rally on Beacon Hill today. This month they've been able to postpone initial program cuts proposed by the Patrick administration. Faced with a 1.5 billion dollar budget gap, lawmakers are looking at program and service cuts. And adult day health services haven't escaped the chopping block yet. Seniors and developmental disability advocates across the state lobbied lawmakers to save Adult Day Health Services from programs cuts. Such cuts, they say, would effectively shut down programs that provide quality of life to their parents. To close the budget gap in a sagging economy, the Patrick administration is proposing 55 million dollars in program cuts to basic care provided by Adult Day Health Services, which includes meal preparation, toiletries and personal care. But elderly advocates say that will cost the state in the long run. Supporters argue that since Adult Day Health Services give seniors and the disabled preventative care at home, that frees up emergency rooms and drives down expenditures toward costly nursing homes. The cuts being proposed by the governor would take place in Fiscal Year 2012, which begins July 1st.

News **03/31/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Mental Health advocates are on Beacon Hill pleading with lawmakers to stop cutting services for the mentally ill. The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts (NAMI Mass)

wants their representatives to restore funding for mental health services. The Governor is proposing to cut \$80 million dollars from the Department of Mental Health budget. That's a 13% reduction that will slash Clubhouse services for the mentally ill, eliminate hospital beds, and reduce child mental health services. There are 4 Clubhouses for the mentally ill in western Massachusetts that the community depends on. The governor faces a \$1.5 to \$2 billion dollar budget shortfall and faces tough decisions to balance the budget.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 1st quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/06/11 5pm : 30

A list of the best and worst jobs in the nation has been released. The industry saw a jolt during the Y2K scare that gripped the globe just before the year 2000 and has been growing ever since. From smart phones, to ipads, to net books and beyond technology is IN and software engineers are in high demand. They're not the only ones on a list of the nation's best and worst jobs out by Career Cast mathematicians are second and an actuary comes in third. Here is one that might surprise you a meteorologist! That's right being a weather forecaster has made the top ten on the list landing at #6. Unfortunately, not everyone is so lucky, jobs that made the list of worst in the nation include a roustabout, which is someone who works on oil rigs and pipelines, an ironworker, lumberjack, roofer and taxi driver round out the top five. The lists were based on income, working environment, stress, physical demands and job outlook. Perhaps a good guide for anyone that is looking for a better job.

News 01/10/11 5pm : 30

It's good news for local economy. Smith & Wesson announced today that they'll be creating hundreds of new jobs. These are apparently going to be a wide range of good paying jobs ranging from machine jobs to management positions to support \$62.9M in new investments. State and local lawmakers announced that thanks to tax grants and investment funds Smith & Wesson will expand its facility and tack on 225 more jobs to its payroll. Manual machine jobs that start somewhere around \$32,000-\$38,000 up to jobs up to senior management that's going to be up to \$160,000. Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray toured the facility Thursday to see what they're working on and how the expansion will fit into some of their top priorities on Beacon Hill. We really believe that we can continue to compete for precision manufacturing, advance manufacturing jobs, and this is an example of how we think we can do that. You can see this is a project that's already underway. The project is being supported by a six million dollar investment through the state's reformed Economic Development Incentive Program.

News 02/15/11 5pm : 30

In a time when many companies are scaling back on the size of their work force, Six Flags New England is hiring. The region's largest theme park is looking to hire 3,000 employees for the 2011 season. Six Flags is looking for applicants 16 years old or older to work in Admissions, Foods, Games, Lifeguards, Loss Prevention, Park Services, Promotions, Retail and Rides. The Six Flags will hold its annual Job Fair at its Human Resource Building in Agawam this Friday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, February 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

News 02/16/11 5am : 30

Home Depot is also hiring. The company says it needs 60,000 seasonal workers for the springtime home improvement rush. The retailer will start hiring this month so, if you need a job, get your application in now. Home Depot said it's also adding new permanent full-time and part-time positions to its stores.

News **02/19/11** **6am** **: 30**

Thousands of jobs are headed to Western Massachusetts and hundreds of people have already tried to scoop them up. The unemployment rate in the U.S. is still at a whopping 9.8%, but 3,000 people will soon be employed here at Six Flags New England. Today is day two of their annual job fair. It starts at the Human Resources building from 9AM-5PM. Many people were hired right on the spot. Six Flags New England Communications Manager, Melissa Pinkertown told 22News there's something for everyone. Some positions include retail, games, rides, food, and admissions.

News **02/19/11** **6am** **: 30**

Technology companies are hiring, but students entering the work force may not have the skills they need to fill the positions. At just 15 years old, one of Devyn Hebert's dreams is to become a forensic toxicologist. The Belchertown High School student is one of nearly 200 students learning about careers in science, technology, engineering, and math during a conference on the subjects at Western New England College in Springfield. Companies in the industry and several schools that offer STEM majors were there to show students what they need to know to break in to this incredibly difficult field. FloDesign in Wilbraham is a research and development company that's trying to bring its jet engine technology wind turbine to the market. But they say finding employees with the right skill set isn't so easy. As fears grow that the U.S. is losing its competitive edge, it is conferences like this which help companies convince potential recruits just how critical these careers can be in today's world.

News **03/03/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Some area employers took part in green jobs training and planning at Springfield City Hall. Companies attending are involved in environment related industries such as waste management, construction and utilities. The idea is to create training programs to meet the needs of the new green technologies. Among the skills required: electronics and plumbing for installation and maintenance of heating systems for solar, wind and geothermal technology.

News **03/03/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Dozens of human service workers rallied in downtown Springfield this afternoon. The workers from SEIU Local 509 say they're underpaid and often put in danger due to inadequate staffing. The chapter president told 22News that many human service workers are forced to work two or three jobs to make ends meet.

News **03/06/11** **11pm** **: 30**

New jobless numbers show the economy is heading in the right direction, but high gas prices have western Massachusetts residents unsure whether it will stay that way. But, there is good news; unemployment is at 8.9 percent that's the lowest it's been in two years. Nearly 250,000 new jobs created in February alone. Retailers are making more money and that means their hiring. US Manufacturing is growing at its fastest rate in almost 7 years and US exporters are able to ship more goods overseas because of the growing global economy. Economists say low unemployment at home could signal a turnaround. But, in Western Massachusetts, optimism is cautious. Experts say we could be looking at \$4.00 dollars a gallon of gas by the summer. Economists warn that if high gas prices stop people from spending, the unemployment figure would rise again. Experts say at least 300,000 new jobs need to be created every month just to keep up with the growth of the population; evidence that while there is good news, the US economy still faces a long and difficult road.

News **03/14/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Government job openings are few and far between lately with cuts at both the state and local levels. But, there are a couple of industries that are still hiring. Kevin Lynn of Futureworks Career Center in Springfield says the medical field is still strong and skilled manufacturing jobs are opening up. He said now is a good time to increase your skill set.

News **03/17/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The state's largest organized labor group wants to raise the minimum wage. The AFL-CIO of Massachusetts wants to increase wages by \$2.00 dollars over the next three years. That would make the state the highest base wage rate in the country. The last time it was raised was in 2008 to \$8.00 dollars. Under this bill it could go up to \$10.00 dollars by 2013. This proposal is stirring up discussion and disagreements.

News **03/25/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The start of summer is still months away, but an effort is already underway to line-up summer jobs for teenagers here in Western Massachusetts and an Employer outreach breakfast was held at the Sheraton in Springfield to encourage businesses to hire teens for summer work. Potential employers heard how giving teens a start in the workplace can have a big impact on their lives and how it can help companies as well.

News **03/25/11** **5am** **: 30**

Massachusetts based Fidelity Investments announced that over 1,000 jobs will be moving out of state. Fidelity's President apologized to Gov. Patrick yesterday. The investment firm will transfer 1,100 jobs from Marlborough to Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Governor Patrick said Fidelity is "A Massachusetts icon" and that he is disappointed at the loss of jobs out of state.

News **03/28/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick signed a bill that will help unemployed workers who have used up their state benefits. This bill will ensure that they remain eligible for federally-funded benefit extensions. Before the legislation, Massachusetts residents potentially could have lost eligibility for the extensions as early as next month. And state officials say the extensions will help residents continue their job searches and pay for basic necessities.

News

03/28/11

11pm

: 30

The unemployment lines are getting a little bit shorter here in Massachusetts. The state's unemployment rate slipped to 8.2% last month. Financial advisor Mark Teed said these new numbers are a hopeful sign the economy is turning around.